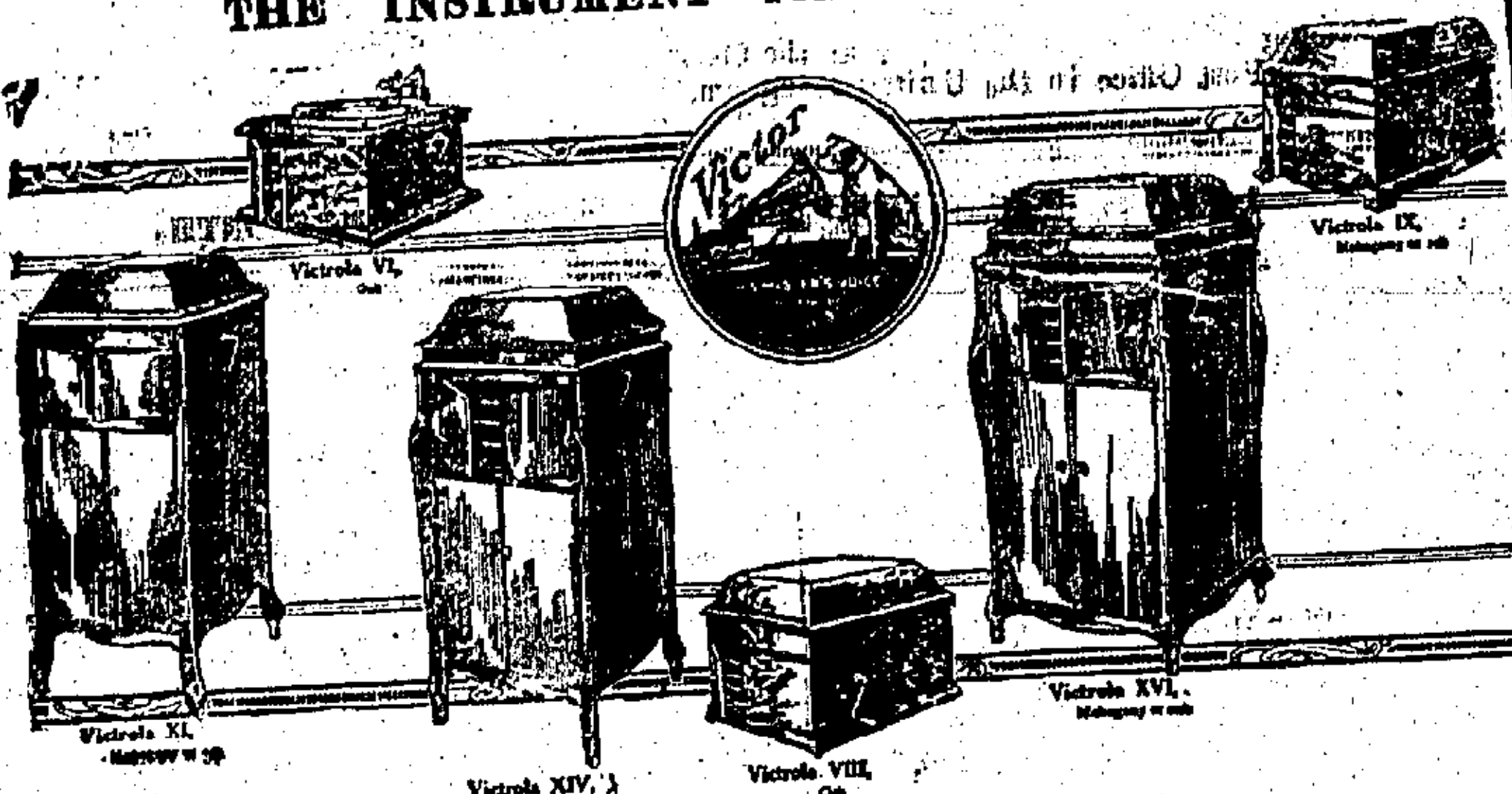


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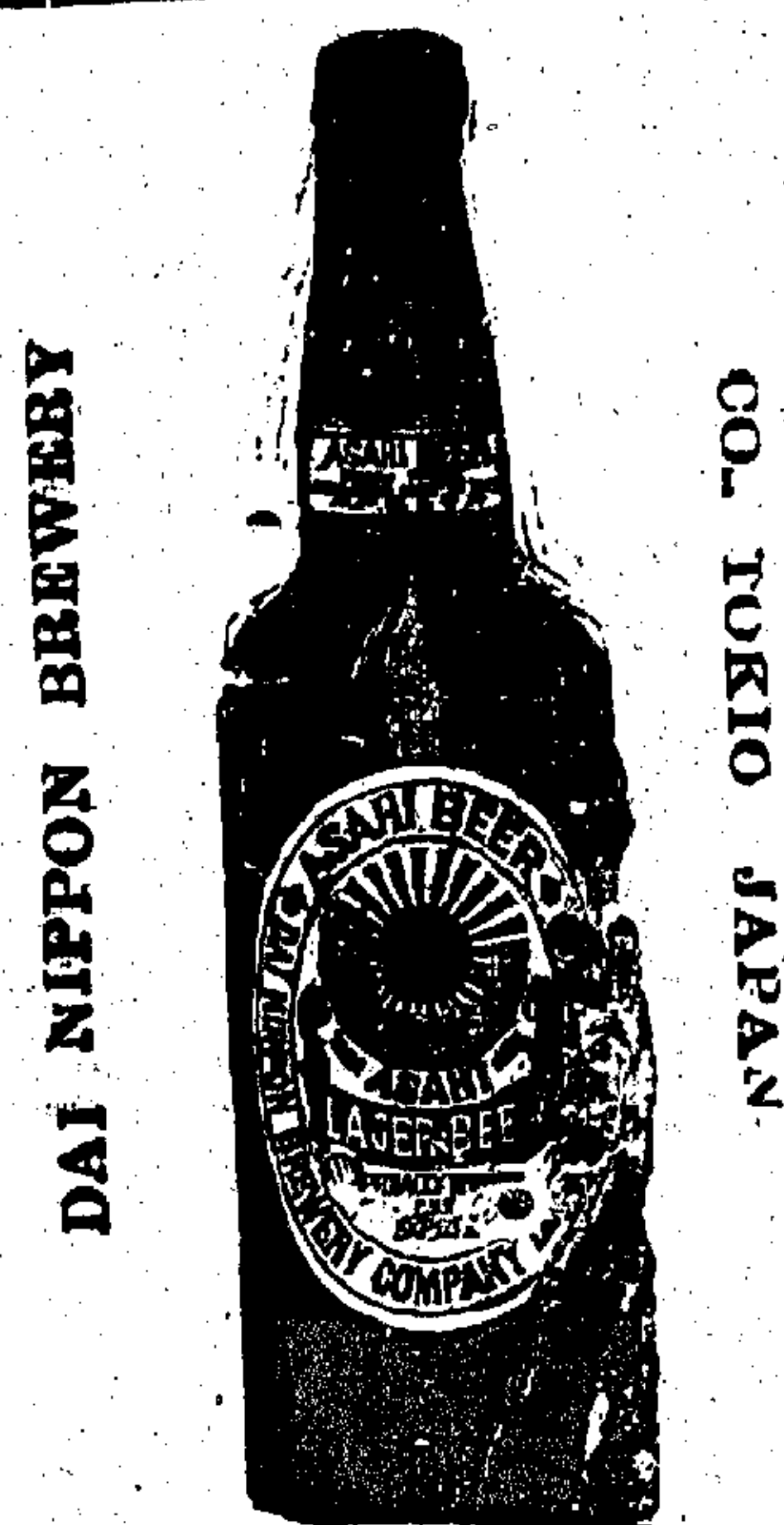
VICTROLA
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OBTAINABLE EVERYWHERE

SOLE AGENTS

WITSU BUSSAN KAISHA.

HONGKONG.

FOR SALE.

RICHMOND HOUSE, No. 145, Barker Road, "DUNOTTAR" No. 81, Aberdeen Road, HASTINGS & HASTINGS, Solicitors.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1916. [371]

FOR SALE.

ONE SET VERTICAL MARINE ENGINES, with three cylinders of 15 inches, 24 inches and 40 inches diameter, with Condenser and Pumps, complete. Also three huge directing boxes, one reducing valve, two discharge valves, one set double safety valves, one steam distributing valve, one main injection valve, and one spare condenser door, all having been formerly used in connection with the afore-said engines. Built in 1904 and been in use only 14 months.

1,933 lbs.—Self-Hardening Steel.
1,877 lbs.—L. A. Turning Steel.
926 lbs.—Oval Chisel Steel.
2,866 lbs.—Round Punching or Turning Steel.

One hundred Kilos Metal Packing.
Open to Offers.
For further particulars,
Apply to
GEO. P. LAMBERT,
4, Dundell Street,
Hongkong, March 13th, 1916. [411]

FOR SALE.

ONE 101 H.P. HORNSBY ACKROYD OIL ENGINE complete with and coupled direct to one 8 K.W. Continuous Current Shunt Wound Dynamo of 50/70 volts with shunt regulator.
Also ONE SWITCHBOARD for ACCUMULATORS, DYNAMO, &c., complete with instruments for 100 Amps.
For further particulars apply to—
LINTHARD & DAVIS,
Alexandra Buildings,
Hongkong, 16th September, 1915. [24]

FRENCH LESSONS

G. MOUSSON.

15, MOATTON HILL ROAD.

CHINESE METHODS IN THE YANGTZE VALLEY.

BRITISH CONSUL'S BELATED REPORT.

We have frequently commented upon the late appearance of the British Consular reports from China. To make a further protest concerning this laxity seems about as futile as the process of knocking one's head against a brick wall. As these reports are edited at the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade, we are uncertain which particular department is most to blame, but if, as we know, one Government department usually causes delay, it is safe to argue that two would cause greater delay. A case in point is Mr. Pro-Consul J. C. Hill's report on the trade of Hankow for the year 1914, which makes its appearance in February, 1916. Making all due allowances for the inconveniences caused by the war, it is difficult to find any excuse for such a protracted delay. British traders have great interests in the Yangtze Valley, of which Hankow is a very important centre; and it is essential, if they are to hold their own with their rivals, that they should have up-to-date reports from the British Consuls stationed there.

In many ways it would appear that the old conservatism and ignorance of the Chinese people and traders has not been in any way influenced by the régime of the Republican Government. The same obstructionist tactics continue to be employed, and there is the same inability to realise that the aid of foreigners is an essential to the commercial and industrial progress of China.

For example, Mr. Hill tells us that the Chinese Government has not changed its short-sighted policy with regard to mines. Every obstruction possible is placed in the way of foreigners who desire to work the many rich mineral deposits in this district. Thus, in a recent set of rules issued by the Hubei Provincial Government, it is laid down that owners of mining land must, under pain of severe punishment, obtain official sanction before seeking to raise capital for the development of their property, and no proposal for the investment of foreign capital will be considered until the authorities have satisfied themselves that the funds required cannot be procured from the Provincial Government. Official sanction is likewise required in the case of all contracts for the sale of the output of a mine to foreigners, even when the working of the mine still remains in Chinese hands. It seems, however, that the attitude of the authorities in this matter has not been able to prevent the enterprising foreigners entering into agreements with Chinese mine owners for the working of their ores. Two British companies are now in the field in this district, and so far their undertakings have been very successful. Both as regards mines and local industries, it is very evident, says Mr. Hill, that there is a more complete control of the working of these enterprises given to foreigners—even where they would be working for native owners and not for themselves—there would be a far greater turnover. Many an undertaking which has been carried on in an unprofitable manner might have been made to pay had competent foreign assistance been invoked.

Again, in the matter of the tea trade, the same retrograde policy prevails. The Chinese Government, which now and again makes an effort to revive the popularity of China tea in home markets, instituted a slight reduction in the export duty on tea, but this reduction was insufficient, according to Mr. Hill, to have any appreciable influence. It is generally stated that the only remedy for the decline in the tea trade would be the abolition of the export duty and the imposition of a constant rate of duty to be paid to the Maritime Customs at the time of export, which would obviate the lack of uniformity at present ruling in the matter of *tekin* collection—a tax which fluctuates according to the fulness, or otherwise, of the purses of local officials, there being as many as six different rates in one single province.

The rebuilding of the native city of Hankow still hangs fire. The influx of natives into the foreign concessions is causing inconvenience, so much so that British residents have been forced to seek quarters in adjoining concessions. To combat the rise in rents which it brought about, efforts were made to extend the concessions as far as the railway, but the Chinese authorities would not hear of such a scheme, excusing the refusal on the time-honoured excuse of interference with China's sovereign rights. Infringement of China's sovereignty is the excuse they undertook to build a model city on the land in question, but so far there are no signs of this scheme materialising, although from time to time foreign architects are invited to prepare plans.

Finally, Mr. Hill notes the tendency of the Chinese to relapse into opium growing. While the cultivation of the drug may fairly be said to have been suppressed in Hubei, the same cannot be said of the provinces of Kansuh, Honan, and Shensi.

The first-mentioned, we are told, has been a particularly flagrant offender. In consequence of official laxity, the farmers have been growing large quantities of poppy, and the resulting demand for opium has led to enhanced prices of grain. In Shensi a similar condition of laxity has been noticeable. Competition of grain is said to be the constant brigandage prevalent in these districts is in part due to the large profits which can be made by illicit dealing in opium. Possibly in some of these directions there may have been modifications since the report was written, but unfortunately the Chinese Government has been so occupied with political complications and the contemplated change of Government that much-needed reforms which would conduce to the progress and prosperity of China remain in abeyance, and as we have seen above, in many respects the old order of things continues. —London and China Express.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander F. R. Goodwin, whose promotion to engineer-commander is announced, served in the *Terrible* at the operations in North China during the Boxer insurrection in 1900 and was awarded the China Medal.

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel H. O. Holman, C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army, who is promoted to colonel by brevet for services in the field, won the D.S.O. for the China expedition, and the C.M.G. for the present war.

Lieut.-Colonel W. M. Watson, West Riding Regiment, who is appointed brigadier-general to command a brigade, was for some years with the now defunct Chinese Regiment, commanding it in the China expedition, 1900, and was promoted to major, by brevet, for his services.

Captain W. P. M. Russell, Gordon Highlanders, late 1/10 London Regiment (T.F.) has been mentioned in despatches for services in Gallipoli. Captain Russell was in the British Consular Service in China from 1898 to 1910. He took part in the defence of the Legations in 1900, being specially mentioned by Sir Claude Macdonald.

Official news has been received of the death in action of Lieutenant Norman Lanaster Wells, 6th North Lancashire Regiment, who was previously posted as missing, believed killed, after landing at Surla Bay, in August of last year. Lieut. Wells joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of war while on a holiday home from Japan. In Japan he was with the Rising Sun Petroleum Company at Hakata and Nagasaki.

CHINESE SEAMEN ON BRITISH SHIPS.

DEPUTATION TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Captain E. G. Petyman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, received a deputation last month on the subject of the employment of Chinese and Asiatic seamen on British ships. The deputation consisted of Messrs. Harry Gosling, president, and Robert Williams, secretary of the Transport Workers' Federation; J. Havelock Wilson, president, and J. E. Cathery, secretary of the Sailors and Firemen's Union; and J. Smiles, Ships' Stewards' and Cooks' Union.

The deputation drew attention to the hardships and injustice which resulted to British seamen from the employment of these men. Mr. Havelock Wilson said that the practice was growing at an alarming rate, and this at a time when there were Britons and neutral Europeans unemployed. He mentioned that more than 20,000 members of the Sailors' and Firemen's Union were now serving with the Colours. It would be a calamity if these men returned to find their places filled by Asiatics, who were paid a third of the wage of Britons and whose standard of life was immeasurably lower.

Captain Petyman agreed with the misgiving of Mr. Wilson as to the state of affairs after the war, but pointed out that during the war the shortage of labour was so manifest that we had perforce to submit to every introduction and innovation which assisted in the successful prosecution of the war. For himself, and he had no doubt he could speak for the Department and the Government, he could assure them that no worker returning from serving his country after the war should walk the streets unemployed while his original position was occupied by other persons.

BORNEO AND THE WAR.

SAFEGUARDING FOOD SUPPLIES FROM SINGAPORE.

A copy of the British North Borneo administration report, 1914, issued as a supplement to the *Official Gazette* of February 1 last, is to hand. His Excellency, C. W. C. Parr, the Governor, in the course of his general observations, says:—

The revenue figures for the first half of the year encouraged legitimate hopes that the total revenue for the year would exceed that of 1913. The outbreak of war, however, changed the aspect of affairs. North Borneo, like many other countries, suffered a decrease in revenue during the latter months. In spite of this the total revenue amounted to very nearly the same as that of 1913. Practically the first sign that war was imminent was the sudden departure from Jesselton, Kudat, and Sandakan of the North German Lloyd steamers *Borneo*, *Darvel*, and *Marudu* without port clearance papers. The departure of the *Marudu* without unloading her inward cargo was severely felt by the merchants of Sandakan and the East Coast. This sudden stoppage of steamship communication between Singapore and Borneo might have had more serious consequences, but for the fact that the majority of those in charge of estates had a stock of foodstuffs in reserve, over and above their actual monthly requirements. Steps were taken at once through legislation to conserve all foodstuffs, and though some of the measures were not popular, they were generally recognised that they were in the interests of the community as a whole.

The Government, urged by cable to arrange for the transmission of a fortnight's supply of foodstuffs, and to arrange if possible for a regular steamship service in place of the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamers, and, after negotiations, the Straits Steamship Company undertook the business. The thanks of Government are due to the Straits Settlements Government for ready assistance given at this crisis, and also to the Singapore agents, Messrs. Guthrie & Co. The Hon. Mr. J. Hutton Hall, who happened to be in Singapore at the time, also did good service. Before fresh food supplies could be obtained from Singapore the Borneo cargo landed from Singapore by the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamer *Sandakan* was handed over to Government, with the help, and courtesy of the British Resident of Labuan, and this relieved the situation considerably.

LOST ZEPPELINS.

RECORD OF DISASTER SINCE AND BEFORE THE WAR.

Although since the beginning of the war the Zeppelins have murdered many men, women and children, innocent victims of bombs dropped at random, the perpetrators of these outrages have not escaped scatheless. In the eighth volume of "Nelson's History of the War," issued in December last, Mr. John Buchan, a careful and cautious recorder, has the following notes on the enemy's lost Zeppelins:—

"During the first six months of war probably, at the outside, half a dozen Zeppelins were demolished by the Allies."

"In February two of the largest, *L3* and *L4*, were wrecked on the coast of Denmark owing to their encounter with snow storms."

"In March *L8* came to grief in the neighbourhood of Trelleborg, and seems to have become a total wreck."

"In April one of the Zeppelins lent by Germany to Austria fell into the Adriatic and was lost."

"In May another broke loose from its moorings near Königsberg and disappeared into the void."

"There were unverified reports of other losses, and a certain number—not less than four—were destroyed by the Allied aircraft in their sheds."

This would give an average of about one a month since war began, but if reports which have been issued from time to time prove reliable the figure is considerably larger. The following table gives dates and particulars:—

Zeppelin.	Other Airship.	Fate of Crew.
August, 1914, 2	12 killed, 12 prisoners.	
September, 1	2 81 prisoners.	
November, 1	1	
December, 1	2	
1915,		
January, 1	1 10 killed 7 prisoners.	
February, 1	1 16 killed, 27 interned.	
March, 2	2 33 killed.	
April, 1	1 11 killed.	
May, 2	1 40 prisoners.	
June, 1	1 23 killed.	
August, 2	2 11 killed, 10 prisoners.	
September, 1	1 2 killed.	
October, 1	1 Crew saved.	
November, 4	4	
21	8 124 killed.	
156 prisoners, 27 interned.		

As long ago as March of last year Count Zeppelin admitted in a statement published in the *Consulter*, *Nachrichten*, that during the first eight months of the war nine of his airships had been lost through various causes. And, as will be seen, the toll has since been heavily increased.

When war broke out Germany had a fleet of 23 airships, made up of three naval Zeppelins, ten army Zeppelins, three passenger Zeppelins, and two other airships. The largest and latest of these machines were 550 ft. in length, a diameter of 61 ft., and a speed of 60 to 65 miles an hour. With the wind they have made as much as 90 miles an hour. These machines carry crews numbering 20 to 30 men, and can lift a ton to explosives.

A POSSIBLE OVERLAND ROUTE.

Sir Arthur Evans has delivered an address to the members of the Royal Geographical Society on "The Adriatic Slavs and the Overland Route to Constantinople," in the course of which he said:—

It was of considerable importance to ourselves, and should be of supreme importance to Italy, that the mainland Power which actually or potentially was bound to dominate the lands and harbours of Dalmatia on the land side should be bound by interest as well as friendship, and should be of a solid bulwark against German or Austro-German domination in that region. That combination could most naturally be secured by the existence of a united South Slavonic State. The national unity aimed at, equally affected Serb, Croat, and Slovene; the inhabitants of the annexed provinces of Montenegro, Dalmatia, Croatia, Slavonia, the Western Banat, Carinthia, and the Slav parts of Istria, together with the southern parts of Carinthia and Styria.

The formation of this new entity in political geography had a most important bearing on our own interests. It would place in friendly guardianship the most important chain of connection in the future important route to the East. From London, via Milan and Mestre, Cervignano, could now be reached in nineteen hours, and a slight connection would make it possible to reach Gradisca half an hour later. That would be the most convenient starting point for a new line of connection following roughly the track of the Roman highway up the Vipava Valley and over the low Julian Pass to Laibach, linking up the Italian system with that of the Save Valley. By improvement in the existing railway from Laibach to Belgrade he estimated that Belgrade might be reached from London in 30½ hours, which was somewhat less than the time which it took up to the outbreak of war to reach Vienna via Cologne and fourteen hours less than it took to reach Belgrade. It was a very solid interest to this country to place in friendly hands a constant, which shortened the journey to Constantinople, and by a branch line via Pireus, a fast steamer service to Port Said, shortened the route to the East.

Recent statistics on the subject show that the average life of a battalion of infantry on the various fronts where fighting takes place regularly is about seven months' duration. This estimate takes in the proportion of killed, wounded, permanently disabled and died of disease and other causes, and discharged. In the early part of the war, when the slaughter amongst the officers was terrific, the average life of an officer was 30 days in the trenches. That average, however, has greatly increased, since the hostile forces settled down to systematic trench warfare. In the early part of the war, hundreds of officers threw away their lives in trying to accomplish the impossible.

FAR EASTERN FLOUR SITUATION.

Apparently, as a result of the purchase of practically the whole of Australia's export of wheat and flour by the British Government, the entire flour market in the Far East, says the American Consul-General (George E. Anderson) of Hongkong, has been revolutionised. Whereas the prospects for American flour were considered very poor for the coming year, they are now considered quite satisfactory if only the price of wheat remains reasonably low and the matter of trans-Pacific freights can be adjusted so as to ease the situation somewhat.

The purchase of the Australian crop was entirely unexpected here; for latest advices were to the effect that Australia would have at least 750,000 tons for export, and that there was strong probability of Australian flour coming into the Hongkong market for the supply of South China, as well as into the markets in the Malay States, Java, and the East Indies generally, where it was thought American flour would have little chance. Now, however, it is anticipated that, even with present prices and freight rates American flour will have a very fair opportunity, and the American mills ought to have a good trade. With lower prices in the United States, and with lower freights the Chinese demand will become normal; at present prices are too high to permit of any material consumption of flour by the Chinese people.

The general change in prospects due to the removal of the Australian crop from competition in this field has been further emphasised by the practical relinquishment of most, if not all, of these southern markets by flour manufacturers of Central and North China. A short time ago the price of native flours went so high that some of the best grades of American flour, since the native flour will not keep for any considerable time in this climate, this increase in price meant the "strong" flour. Later it was announced that further shipments of flour from Shanghai were prohibited by the Chinese Government.

Under the circumstances, therefore, American flour has a clear sweep in the Hongkong territory, the only obstacle to large business being prices in the United States. Stocks at present are low, being valued at 220,000 bags. The freight tonnage situation, however, is still very unsatisfactory. Aside from the general shortage of available space, forward engagements are such that it is difficult, if not impossible, to follow demand in the flour market here, either by securing greater allotments or by adjusting space contracts to the need of the moment. At present there seems no prospect of any weakening in rates.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

CORPS ORDERED BY LT.-COL. A. CHAPMAN, V.D.

JOINED.

1.—Sapper W. J. Owens joined the Corps on March 14th, 1916, is allotted Corps No. 1391 and is posted to Engineer Company.

ENGINEER COMPANY.

2.—"Lyceum Relief" from 17th to 31st March is posted on the notice board at Headquarters for information of all concerned.

PARADES.

3.—Parades for to-day.
7 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.—Members of Signalling Section and other Signallers, as detailed in Signalling Section order dated December 8th, 1915—Morse flag and Morse lamp practice at Headquarters.
5.15 p.m.—Special drill for N.C.O.s of Scouts Co. at Headquarters. Recruits of all units—Squad Drill and Rifle exercises at Headquarters under Sergeants Longmire and Ramsay and one N.C.O. from Right Section M.G. Co.
Remainder, nil.

DETAIL.

4.—On duty until morning of 17th inst.—H.K.V.B.
On duty 17th inst.—Right Section M.G. Co.
G. E. STEWART, Capt., Adjutant, H.K.V.B.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

COMMENDATION.

P.O. 168 Mok Lai Sang, of the Hongkong Police Reserve, is commended by the Capt.-Supt. of Police for his plucky conduct in effecting the arrest of an armed robber who had committed a robbery at 39 Gage Street, on the 23rd January, 1916, and the recovery of a part of the stolen property.

MOUNTED PATROLS.

The Hon. Mr. D. Landale has presented "Harry" to this detachment.

PLATOON PARADES.

No. 2 Co. (3) will parade at St. Joseph's College on Thursday, March 16th, at 5.30 p.m.

CHURCH PARADE.

All ranks of No. 2 Co., including Band, are required to attend the Procession of the Cross at the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Sunday, 19th March. Fall in at Central Police Station at 4.20 p.m. sharp.

Uniform, Helmets and Spikes. No arms to be carried.

Catholic members of the Police Reserve not belonging to No. 2 Co., who wish to attend may do so by arranging with Chief Inspector d'Almeida.

MUSKETRY, SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH.

In order to permit of No. 2 Co. attending Church Parade on this date the attention of the Range will be as follows:—Instead of, as previously notified:—Leave Blake Pier, 9 a.m.—No. 2 Company. Leave Blake Pier, 11.30 a.m.—No. 3 Co. Leave Blake Pier, 2.30 p.m.—No. 1 Co. (Nos. 3 and 4 Platoons).

BAND PRACTICE.

Friday, March 17th, at 5.15 p.m. sharp.

P. C. JENKIN, D.S.P. (R).

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

BRASS AND IRON BEDSTEADS.

ALBERT PHILLIPS, Ltd., Birmingham, England, require experienced BRITISH AGENTS for the Sale of these Goods. State nature of experience and references. [418]

WANTED—IMMEDIATELY.

COMPETENT SHORTHAND TYPIST for Shipping Office. Box "T." Apply—Care of "Daily Press" Office. Hongkong, 15th March, 1916. [416]

WANTED AT ONCE.

FOR Retail Firm, an experienced BOOK-KEEPER, Portuguese preferred. Apply—Care of "Daily Press" Office. Hongkong, 14th March, 1916. [412]

WANTED.

A PORTUGUESE BOOKKEEPER, must be a Competent Man, write a good hand, especially quick at Figures. Age about 20. Only an experienced man need apply. "B. K." Care of "Daily Press" Office. Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [406]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD., will be held at St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, on SATURDAY, the 25th day of March, 1916, at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon, when the Subjoined Extraordinary Resolution will be proposed:—

That the Articles of Association of the Company be altered in manner following:—

(a) That after the word "Company" in the 16th line of Article 110 the following words shall be added:—

"The General Managers may also with the consent of the Consulting Committee pay such bonus or bonuses as the General Managers shall think fit."

(b) That the words "Bonus or Bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the 18th line of Article 110.

(c) That the words "and bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the first line of Article 115.

Should the above Resolution be passed by the requisite majority, it will be submitted for confirmation as a Special Resolution to a further Extraordinary General Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1916. SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers. [409]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTIETH YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Club House, on MONDAY, the 27th March, 1916, at 5.30 P.M. By Order, E. DES VŒUX, Secretary. Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [400]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-NINTH HALF-YEARLY DRAWING of 65 DEBENTURES (1896 issue) of the HONGKONG CLUB, Payable on FRIDAY, the 31st March, 1916, will be held in the Club House at 11 o'clock A.M. on FRIDAY, the 24th March, 1916. Bearers of Debentures are invited to attend the Drawing. By Order, E. DES VŒUX, Secretary. Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [401]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

A COMPETITION will be held over the FAN LING Course commencing on 1st April for a prize kindly presented by H.E. the Governor.

CONDITIONS.—Match play under handicap. Limited to handicaps of 12 and over. Entrance fee 50 cents per round, the proceeds to go to the War Charities Committee.

Intending competitors are requested to sign their names on the boards at Happy Valley or Fan Ling or to send same in writing to the undersigned, c/o Messrs. Bradley & Co., Ltd., not later than the 25th inst.

T. W. HILL, Acting Hon. Secretary. Hongkong, March 14th, 1916. [414]

G. R.

NOTICE.

UNTIL further Notice the Government Dredger "ST. ENOCH" will be dredging an area extending to 300 yards South of the Star Ferry Pier at Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

All craft are warned to pass outside 100 yards from this vessel and all Steamers must ease their engines to slow when passing within 300 yards of her.

When the Dredger is working she will fly by day a Red Barge from after-mast and by night 2 Red Lights one at each mast-head. C. W. BECKWITH, Harbour Master, &c. Harbour Department, Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [402]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

THE THIRTY-ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, on SATURDAY, the 25th March, 1916, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1915, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 20th March, to SATURDAY, the 25th March, 1916, both days inclusive. SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers. Hongkong, 11th March, 1916. [408]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the General Managers at 11.30 A.M. on TUESDAY, the 28th instant, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1915, and the Report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th instant, both days inclusive. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers. Hongkong, 8th March, 1916. [303]

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the Undersigned at Noon on TUESDAY, the 28th instant.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th instant, both days inclusive. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [376]

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-THIRD ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 29th March, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th March, both days inclusive. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Agents. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [368]

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Agents, Polder's Street, Hongkong, on FRIDAY, the 31st March, 1916, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to 31st March, 1916, both days inclusive. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Agents. Hongkong, 12th March, 1916. [413]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTER of the Company will be closed from TUESDAY, 21st March, 1916, to WEDNESDAY, 19th April, 1916, both days INCLUSIVE. By Order of the Board of Directors, W. E. ROBERTS, Secretary. Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [407]

SOCIETE DES PULPES ET PAPETERIES DU TONKIN.

(Tonkin Pulp & Paper Company.) CAPITAL \$760,000. Head Office: 21, rue Jules Ferry, Haiphong.

SECOND NOTICE.

SECOND CONVOCATION.

AS the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS of the above Society convened for the 6th February, 1916, did not meet the quorum required by article 31 of the law of 24th July, 1867, modified by the law of 22nd November, 1913, the Board of Directors hereby notify and convene all the Shareholders of the SOCIETE DES PULPES ET PAPETERIES DU TONKIN for a Second Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on the 18th March, 1916, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Head Office in Haiphong, 21, Rue Jules Ferry, when the following Resolutions will be submitted:

1. Winding up of the Company.
2. Nomination of Liquidators, with special powers for disposing of the assets, in movable and immovable Property, to any New Concern at such terms and conditions which will be deemed advisable by the Meeting.

Every Shareholder, whatever number of Shares he holds, may participate in the Meeting, and is entitled without limitation to as many votes as there are Shares in his possession.

For the Board of Directors, (Signed) M. DANDOLO. Haiphong, 28th February, 1916. [351]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

NO. 4, DES VŒUX ROAD CENTRAL, First Floor. NO. 5, ROBINSON ROAD, "STONE-RENGE," DWELLING HOUSES containing Fire Rooms and Out-houses. Apply to—DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd. Hongkong, 15th March, 1916. [416]

TO LET.

NO. 1, TOGO TERRACE, Kennedy Road. Apply—LI FUK TSAU, Care of Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST, 9, Queen's Road Central. Hongkong, 1st March, 1916. [355]

TO LET.

NEWLY-BUILT FLATS, in SAIFEE TERRACE, Nathan Road, also, SIMILAR FLATS in Jordan Road, Kowloon. Rents very moderate. Electric Light and Gas installed. Apply to—KAYAMALLY & Co., 5, D'Aguiar Street. Hongkong, 1st March, 1916. [358]

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

FURNISHED, No. 3, Mountain View. Apply—H. E. POLLOCK, Princes' Buildings. Hongkong, 26th February, 1916. [333]

TO LET.

OFFICES, 5, Duddell Street, now in occupation of Messrs. Radecker & Co. Apply—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 17th February, 1916. [326]

TO LET.

A splendid set of OFFICE ROOMS on the First Floor of No. 10, Des Vœux Road Central (above the Robinson Piano Co.), comprising Three Large and Two Small Rooms with Out-houses and Servants' Quarters. The Premises are being thoroughly repaired and renovated. Centrally located in the vicinity of the Banks and Shipping Offices. Rents moderate. Apply to—MOW FUNG & Co., 10, Des Vœux Road Central. Hongkong, 18th February, 1916. [302]

TO LET.

A HOUSE in Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon. Apply—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 24th October, 1915. [37]

FURNISHED FLATS.

THE Undersigned are prepared to furnish some of their Regent Mansions (May Road) Flats to suit intending tenants. These Flats have first-class appointments which include English Baths and Kitchen ranges, hot water supply and water-closets. They are of two kinds, viz.: Flats with 2 Bedrooms and 2 Sitting Rooms and Flats with 3 Bedrooms and 1 Sitting Room. The latter are specially suitable for Bachelors. Arrangements could be made if desired for the use, in common with certain other tenants, of the adjoining fresh water swimming bath.

Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., Ltd. Alexandra Buildings. Hongkong, 26th January, 1916. [205]

TO LET.

NO. 11, GAGE STREET, immediate possession. Apply to—J. VINCENT BRAGA, 10, Queen's Road Central. Hongkong, 16th November, 1915. [100]

TO LET.

RAYNSHILL EAST, Park Road, containing 6 Rooms, 2 Bath Rooms, Servants' Quarters, &c. Vacant 1st November. Apply—DEACON, LOOKER, DEACON & HARTSON. Hongkong, 19th October, 1915. [90]

TO LET.

TWO ROOMED-FLATS in Nathan Road, Kowloon. THREE-ROOMED FLATS in Humphrey's Buildings, Kowloon. FOUR-ROOMED FLATS in May Road, with every modern convenience, including English Baths and Kitchen Ranges, Hot Water and Water Carriage System. A few Flats specially designed to accommodate three bachelors at reasonable rentals. Immediate possession. Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., Ltd. Alexandra Buildings. Hongkong, 26th December, 1915. [277]

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon. Apply to—HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., Ltd. Alexandra Buildings. Hongkong, 26th December, 1915. [277]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road. OFFICES in King's Buildings. OFFICES in Des Vœux Road Central. HOUSES in CLIFTON GARDENS, Connaught Road. NEW HOUSES in Broadwood Terrace. HOUSES at the Peak. No. 1, MORETON TERRACE, Causeway Bay. GODOWNS, at Wan-chai. Nos. 1, 2 and 2, WEST END TERRACE CANTON. Apply—THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 4th November, 1915. [32]

INTIMATION

WATSON'S THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF THE FAR EAST FOR 25 YEARS.



POPULARITY MAINTAINED

BY ITS

EXCELLENT QUALITY.

NOT BY EXPENSIVE

WORLD-WIDE ADVERTISING.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD., WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS. HONGKONG.

MARRIAGE.

PAGE-NORTHY.—At Barnes, on January 31st, Lieut. C. H. PAGE (Adjutant), 10th Battalion K.O.Y.L.I., late of Swatow, to MARY IRVINE (Queenie) NORTHY.

DEATHS.

SHIRIDAN.—At 51A, Broadway, Shanghai, on March 8th, THOMAS JOSEPH, the beloved husband of GERTRUDE SHIRIDAN, aged 48 years.

GREINARD.—At Shanghai, on March 8th, MARIE, the beloved wife of L. J. GREINARD, in her 51st year.

STARKEY.—At his residence, Chinkiang, on March 8th, EDGORTH STARKEY, aged 70 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10, DES VŒUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 16th MARCH, 1916

THE BRITISH ARISTOCRACY.

We cannot yet comprehend the details of Armageddon. The conflict is so vast that, even if all of the facts could be made public, it would be beyond human conception. Day by day we search for news, some of which we retain in our memories but most of which is quickly obliterated by fresh details. For eighteen months Europe has been engaged in an orgie of slaughter. To-day we are determined, more than ever, to fight the war to a finish, because we realize that it is a struggle for freedom against autocracy. We believe that as a civilized nation we are engaged in what might well be called a Holy War. We mean, at whatever cost, to rid this planet of old barbaric ideas of kingship. And the class in Society which has covered itself with the greatest glory in this wonderful fight for democratic conceptions of life is the aristocracy. Time brings its own revenges. Many a soldier from the mine, or the workshop, who genuinely believed in the politics of ten years ago, that the House of Lords held him in bondage, now sees that the scions of noble houses not only have no fear of death but are the first to do those deeds of gallantry and self-sacrifice which none appreciate more than "the working classes."

The hot blast which is searing Europe will leave nothing untouched. The political and personal ideals which existed before August, 1914, have already shown the cleansing effect of the fires in which they have been tested. We have had surprises beyond number. We have seen our faith in humanity almost shattered. Not an Englishman, before the war, believed such crimes possible as the enemy have committed. Against all this we must set our gains. Nothing, except, perhaps, the individual deeds of heroism, has pleased the British people more than the wonderful reply of the aristocracy to those who called the class decadent. We seem to have recovered some great national asset. The politician said of this class: "They toil not, neither do they spin." Of many of them, in those spacious days of KING EDWARD, it seemed only too true. But when war broke out no class in the community responded so readily and eagerly to the call of duty as the aristocracy. The Universities and the public schools have produced remarkable rolls of honour. More than one hundred heirs to hereditary titles have made the great sacrifice for their country. PRINCE MAURICE OF BATTENBERG, a first cousin of KING GEORGE, has laid down his life. Seven peers have fallen, while ninety-five sons of peers have shown that they, too, preferred death to dishonour. Some of the ancient titles will have no heirs, but the names will live imperishably in the memory of Britons.

With but one or two regrettable exceptions, the debates in the House of Lords during the war have been worthy of the traditions of any Senate or Upper House. Lord DERBY has carried through a work which probably no man less highly connected could have done so well. Members of the aristocracy who before the war held aloof from politics, for various reasons, have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into any work, political or social, which seemed necessary. They have recognised, also, the sterling qualities of men of more humble origin, and have welcomed the co-operation of the representatives of labour, such as the Rt. Hon. WILL CROOKS and Mr. BARNES. They have not hesitated to approve of the recognition by the Government of the services of these men. Nor have they withheld a tribute of admiration for Mr. LLOYD GEORGE. All this must exercise a very great effect upon the politics of the Empire for many years to come. We may almost hope that the class bitterness, which raised so many difficult social problems before the war, has disappeared never to return. The terrible ordeal has brought home to the rich their responsibilities. It has proved to the poor that, in a national crisis, the leisured class become natural leaders, and are willing to sacrifice anything and everything for their country. While no one can deny the dark horrors and the devastating results of the war, we can, nevertheless, be thankful for those flashes of light which enable us to retain our faith in humanity. The record of the British aristocracy has been splendid, and will never be forgotten by the Empire.

A mail for Europe via Siberia closes to-day at 3 p.m. Sir Robert Bredon contemplates leaving for a trip to the United States next month, says the Peking Daily News. The Baltic Christmas Gift to the Red Cross Fund includes a subscription of £52 10s. from Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd. Mr. Ronald Macleay, Councillor of the British Legation, Peking, has been staying with Sir Everard Fraser, K.C.M.G., at Shanghai. The P. & O. homeward mail steamer Karmala, with the Hongkong mail of the 28th January last, arrived in London on the 13th inst. Second Lieutenant Wills of the Dorset Regiment, has been appointed Adjutant of the Tientsin British Volunteers. He is accompanied by a Sergeant-Inspector who has also been selected by the War Office. The engagement is announced of Captain Birdwood van Someren Taylor, Brigade Machine-gun Officer, youngest son of Mr. Birdwood van Someren Taylor, M.B., C.M., of Foochow, China, and Olivia Wynn, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Murray, University gardens, Glasgow. By the death of Mr. Edgworth Starkey, Chinkiang loses its oldest resident, the deceased gentleman having arrived in Chinkiang about the year 1871. He was connected with the British Municipal Council as far back as 1871, and served on the Council eighteen times, that is to say, almost continuously for forty years.

Mr. F. D. Haigh, who has seen nine years' service at the Hongkong branch of Kelly & Walsh, has been transferred to Shanghai. Mr. Haigh was presented by the members of the Kowloon Cricket Club with a Thermos flask and case of pipes in token of their esteem, the presentation being made by Mr. P. R. Wolff, President of the Club.

The Japanese General Aoki, who was recently dispatched to Shanghai, frankly states that part of his mission is to investigate German intrigues in China. The latest form of German duplicity in Peking consists of trying to bribe willing neutrals to take false passports and hand them over to a number of Germans who are prisoners at Vladivostok, thus facilitating their escape.

The death occurred suddenly on February 4th at The Gables, Malvern, of Admiral John Frederick George Grant. In 1860 Admiral Grant was present at the capture of the Taku Forts and received the Chinese Medal. He was also engaged in various operations against the rebels in China in 1862, being twice mentioned for his services. When in command of the Midge he was engaged for many months in suppressing piracy in the Straits of Malacca.

The Eastern Extension, Australia and China Telegraph Co., Ltd., announce that commencing on the 16th inst. the "River-side" Code, 5th edition, will be allowed to be used in addition to the seven codes already permitted. The exceptions to the above are:—With or via Argentine Republic and Brazil; with France and French possessions, and with Italy. The sender's name, which has to be telegraphed, should not be included in the body of the telegram, but should be written by itself on the line below the last word.

The following paragraph appears in the Peking Gazette:—We understand that Mr. Edmund Backhouse, the brilliant English sinologue, whose monumental Anglo-Chinese Dictionary has long been awaited, is for private reasons leaving China this month. It is said that he does not intend to return to this country. We trust his decision is not irrevocable, particularly if it is likely to affect his work on the dictionary. The completion of this dictionary, on which Mr. Backhouse has been engaged for nearly two decades and which is to be twice or thrice as voluminous as the celebrated work of Dr. Giles, is considered an international necessity.

A very successful concert was held at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home, Arsenal Street, last evening, with the object of augmenting the funds of the Home. The Rev. T. Robinson was the prime mover in the affair, and the programme was arranged by the Naval Concert Party, of which Mr. H. G. Lister is Hon. Secretary, with Messrs. H. Dunn, W. Stratfield, and E. Card as willing helpers. There was a crowded audience. Among those present were Rear-Admiral Anstruther and his Secretary (Mr. Merry). The programme was 'long and diversified, and the items were, without exception, enthusiastically received. The contributors included Miss C. Scott, Mrs. Goodman, and Mrs. D. Brown (song), Messrs. R. Sutherland, A. J. Brock, Perrin, A. B. Allen, and A. E. Staley (songs), Mr. J. Robinson (bones), Mr. B. White (violin solo), Mr. P. D. Wilson (bagpipe selections), the Beal's White (banjo duet), and Mr. H. Dunn (recitation). The accompaniments were provided by Misses Stanley and Scott, and Messrs. Perrin and Hearn.

THE YUE HING APPEAL.

THE PRESSURE OF BANKS.

Mr. Sharp replied to Mr. Potter's address on the facts in the Yue Hing appeal case yesterday. Dealing with the alleged pressure by the French and the International Banks for paying off loans made to the Company, counsel said that this matter was thoroughly gone into when the case was before the Chief Justice, but as Mr. Potter had dealt with it he had to again refer to the subject. The opium market, he would emphasise, was steadily rising throughout the whole of the material period in the case as a consequence of which the bank position of the Company was steadily relieving itself. Actually, two sales of opium were made by the banks to relieve the loans. The French Bank sold 22 chests to relieve their loan, and the International Bank dealt with two material transactions; "Koo" paid in \$100,000, and the bank also sold five chests of opium in respect of the loan. This was all that the pressure from the banks amounted to. Another fact was a letter from "Koo" to "Leo," regarding the selling of the opium to relieve the position of the Company, and it had been argued that "Leo" had acted honestly on that letter there would have been no ground for complaint. Their (the respondents) sole complaint was that "Leo" did not act honestly; that he did not act honestly during the period when "Koo" was nervous and wrote nervous letters. In conclusion, Mr. Sharp contended that the Chief Justice was of the opinion that all the circumstances of the case gave rise to the gravest suspicions. It was obvious that the Company was in a wholly rotten condition, and, as a consequence, it was the duty of the Court to have the Company wound up.

Judgment was reserved.

THE WAR.

LULL AT VERDUN.

ENEMY'S NEXT MOVE CALMLY AWAITED.

IMPORTANT OPERATIONS IN EAST AFRICA.

GERMANY'S PROGRESS TO DISASTER

STARRED OCCUPATIONS LIST REVISED.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE VERDUN BATTLE.

"WHOLE GERMAN PLAN
WRECKED."

LONDON, March 15th.
2.20 p.m.

A German artillery observation officer who has been captured says that originally the German artillery was massed en bloc and everyone was convinced that Verdun would crumble to dust, but gradually the French shells poured on the massed artillery compelled it to disperse, thus wrecking the whole German plan.

CEASELESS ACTIVITY OF
THE GUNS.

BOMBARDMENT INTENSIFIED
WEST OF MEUSE.

Paris, March 14th.
4.00 a.m.

The evening communiqué says:—North of Verdun, the bombardment was intensified west of the Meuse against Mort Homme and the Bois Bourrus region. Our batteries shelled enemy gatherings between Forges and Crows Wood.

There was moderate artillery activity on the right bank of the Meuse and in Woivre, but there was no infantry action during the day.

The Germans attacked the trenches we recently recaptured east of Seppois in Upper Alsace, but artillery and infantry fire quickly drove them back to their trenches.

Our artillery north of the Aisne wrecked enemy organisations at several points in the Vauclerc Plateau.

Our heavy guns bombarded German works in Champagne and Eastern Argonne.

Our aviators were remarkably active to-day. Six machines dropped 130 bombs on the strategic station of Brouilles, north of Verdun. Numerous actions were fought, in which we indisputably had the advantage. Three German aeroplanes were brought down, and others were seen falling, but their destruction has not been verified.

THE LULL AT VERDUN.

STILL 100,000 FRESH GERMANS FOR
THE FURNACE.

Paris, March 14th.
12.40 p.m.

The lull at Verdun finds the position generally unchanged, compared with nine days ago. The French do not believe that the Germans have definitely abandoned the offensive, as they have still 100,000 fresh troops to be flung into the furnace at the behest of the Kaiser, but the French calmly and confidently await the next move, at whatever point it is directed.

Experts are of opinion that after the sanguinary repulse of the frontal attacks the Germans may try surprises on the wings.

The two most important positions on the battlefield are Mort Homme, on the West of the Meuse, and Douaumont, on the east bank of the Meuse. The Germans gained some ground at Bethincourt and in Crows Wood, which are the outlying positions of Mort Homme, but the principal position has not yet been attacked, while the Germans at Douaumont are struggling to maintain a salient.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ATTEMPTED GERMAN ATTACK

ENEMY DISPERSED BY RIFLE
FIRE.

Paris, March 14th.
4.45 p.m.

To-day's communiqué says:—West of the Meuse the cannonade was fairly violent. At night time a strong German reconnaissance in Haudremont Wood was checked by our curtain of fire.

The bombardment continued to be violent at Vaux and Dambloup.

There was also artillery activity in Woivre, notably in the sector of Elix.

The Germans attempted an attack at Bois le Pretre, but they were dispersed by rifle-fire, leaving a number of dead.

GERMAN CLAIMS DISPUTED.

Paris, March 14th.

A French official announcement says that the total prisoners claimed by the Germans at Verdun are double the number of French killed, wounded and unwounded prisoners. The French lost only 84 guns, many of which were useless, whereas the number of German guns destroyed is very large.

ACTIVITY IN BRITISH ZONE.

THIRTY-TWO AIR FIGHTS.

LONDON, March 14th.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports:—The enemy exploded mines at Carnoy, and near the La Bassee and Bethune Road without damage.

We successfully bombarded the region of Mametz, the Lille-Armentieres railway, and Hooge.

There was considerable artillery activity about Loos.

Also there was considerable aerial activity on both sides. Thirty-two hostile machines were engaged, and three were brought down.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANY'S NEW LOAN.

FAST PROGRESS TO NATIONAL
DISASTER.

LONDON, March 14th.

Neutral financiers declare that owing to the pitiable condition of the small capitalists Germany's new Loan will be merely a banking affair, namely, the conversion of Government bills into Government securities. They are of opinion that this system means fast progress toward national disaster.

"ONLY A SCRAP OF PAPER."

BULGARIAN AGREEMENT WITH
TURKEY.

ATHENS, March 13th.

A Sofia telegram says that M. Radoslawoff declared in the Sobranje that he would not oppose the establishment of an autonomous Albania. He was ignorant as to what would happen to Serbia. Bulgaria was not closely related to either of her neighbours, and the agreement with Turkey could to-morrow become only a scrap of paper.

PERSIA'S TREASURER- GENERAL.

PETROGRAD, March 14th.

The Persian Government has re-appointed M. Heinsens Treasurer-General. He resigned last March as the result of German intrigues.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OPERATIONS IN E. AFRICA. ENEMY DRIVEN FROM STRONG POSITION.

LONDON, March 13th.

General Smuts, in a telegram dated the 12th March, says: the action which commenced on the morning of the 11th inst. against the German prepared positions on the Kitovo Hills, westward of Taveta, resulted in a very obstinate struggle with wavering fortunes, until midnight.

The densely-wooded, steep hills were strongly held by the enemy, and were a most formidable obstacle. Portions of the position were taken and re-taken several times.

The final attack with the bayonet between 9 o'clock and midnight by two parties, led by Lieut.-Colonel Freeth and Major Thompson, of the South African Infantry, secured a hold which was maintained till they were re-inforced on the following morning, when the German native troops were seen streaming away towards Kabe, in a south-westerly direction.

Simultaneously one of the Mounted Brigades were engaged in clearing the foothills north-east of Kilimanjaro of the enemy forces which had been cut off from the main body by the rapid advance of the British, on the 8th, 9th, and 10th. Movements are progressing to bar the retreat of those isolated forces westward.

Concurrently with the above actions, a strong column under Major-General Stewart from the direction of Longido appeared on the Arusha-Moshi Road in the rear of the main German concentration, the enemy consequently retreating southwards towards the Usambara railway. The pursuit continues.

DISCIPLINE OF NEW ARMY.

1,000,000 RECRUITED IN FOUR
DAYS.

LONDON, March 14th.

In the House of Commons Mr. H. J. Tennant, in the course of the Army Debate, paid a tribute to the wonderful discipline of the men, considering the short term of training. A million recruits were enlisted in four days under the Derby scheme. The bachelors among munition workers and employed in national industry would be reduced to a minimum. The Government would see that the married men would not be let down. He dwelt on the enormous development of the Army, instancing that stores used since the outbreak of war would have lasted for 140 normal years. He emphasised the merits of the system of purchase on behalf of all the Allies.

STARRED OCCUPATIONS REVISED.

LONDON, March 14th.

The War Office announces that a Committee is revising the list of starred occupations, except the list of those employed on railways and in collieries. It recommends that the exemption of men claiming responsible positions in occupations connected with the export trade be limited to married men over 30 years of age, that reserved bachelors be released for service, and that luxury occupations be deleted from reservation.

FULFILMENT OF LORD DERBY'S PLEDGE.

LONDON, March 14th.

In the House of Commons Mr. Lloyd George hoped that the revision of the lists of reserved occupations would secure the fulfilment of Lord Derby's pledge. It is understood that in revision married men would receive special consideration.

MARRIED MEN'S UNION.

LONDON, March 14th.

It has been decided to establish a Union of married men who have affected at Manchester.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES' NEW PLATFORM.

LONDON, March 14th.

Mr. Gibson Bowles will contest Harborough on behalf of the attested married men, in opposition to Mr. Percy Harris (Liberal).

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OPPOSITION TO PREMATURE PEACE.

LORD FISHER AND "A NEW
EARTH."

LONDON, March 14th.

The Lord Mayor presided at a meeting at the Mansion House in support of the Fight for the Right movement, whose object is the opposing of premature peace.

Mr. Balfour wrote warmly sympathising with the object of the meeting.

Admiral Lord Fisher said the self-governing Dominions had steeled their hearts to every sacrifice to win the war. Victory would mean a new Heaven and a new earth.

The Bishop of Winchester, the Chief Rabbi, and Monsignor Drew supported the resolution.

GALLIPOLI OPERATIONS.

OFFICERS DECORATED FOR
SERVICES.

LONDON, March 14th.

Among the Naval officers mentioned in despatches in regard to the Gallipoli operations are Rear-Admirals Thursby, Christian, and Stuart-Nicholson, practically all the Captains engaged, fifteen midshipmen, and eight trawler-skippers, while there are "mentioned" in connection with the evacuation Rear-Admiral Fremantle and 32 others of various ranks.

Twenty-seven Distinguished Service Orders are awarded, the recipients including Assistant Paymaster B. F. Hood. A number of Distinguished Service Crosses are awarded, among the recipients being ten midshipmen and four trawler skippers. The commander of the famous transport *River Clyde* has also been decorated.

Colonel Walker Campbell and Lieut.-Colonel A. Lynden-Bell have been gazetted Major-Generals in connection with the evacuation.

Lieut.-General Sir A. Monro is awarded the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George (G.C.M.G.) in connection with the evacuation, and Major-General F. J. Davies is created a Knight Commander of that Order (K.C.M.G.), while the following have been appointed Companions of the Order (O.M.G.):—Colonel Robert Tudway, Majors H. E. Street (Artillery), A. G. McNulty (Army Service Corps), and C. F. Aspinall (Munster Fusiliers).

Major-General's Altham, Byng, and Godley have been made Knight Commanders of the Order of the Bath (K.C.B.), and Lieut.-Colonels G. F. Macoun and C. B. White (Australians) have been appointed Companions of the Bath (C.B.).

ARMY APPOINTMENTS.

LONDON, March 14th.

Major-General Heath, Director of Quartering, has been appointed Deputy-Quartermaster-General, and Colonel Atkins, Deputy Director of Supplies, has been appointed temporary Director, in place of Major-General Long.

Major-General Long resigned owing to differences of opinion on the question of administration.

NEW BATTALION COMMANDER.

LONDON, March 14th.

Colonel William Lowry (retired Indian Army) has been appointed to command a Battalion of the Lancashire.

CHIEF FINATE ILL.

AMSTERDAM, March 14th.

Grand Admiral von Tirpitz is ill.

MR. ASQUITH INDISPOSED.

LONDON, March 14th.

Mr. Asquith is suffering from bronchial catarrh, and is unable to attend the House of Commons.

ARGENTINE WHEAT HARVEST.

BUENOS AIRES, March 14th.

The wheat harvest is estimated at 4,669,500 tons.

GERMAN VESSELS IN SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 14th.

The Cabinet is considering the question of chartering the interned German vessels.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

IRELAND AND MUNITION- MAKING.

GREATER FACILITIES REQUESTED.

LONDON, March 13th.

A deputation of Irish business men, headed by Mr. John Redmond, waited on Mr. Lloyd George to urge greater facilities for the making of munitions in Ireland and the equipment of national shell and fuse factories. They declared that the Trade Unions would help in the work.

Mr. Lloyd George replied that he was anxious to utilise the reserves of Ireland to the utmost, but it cannot be ignored that for the most part Ireland was not an industrial country. He pointed out that Belfast's contribution to the conduct of the war was second to none in the United Kingdom. He was not sanguine enough to hope that the war would end before July, and therefore he could not make plans for the delivery of such machinery on such an assumption. There was no reason why Ireland should not be more prosperous industrially. He would seize the opportunities afforded by the making of munitions for developing Ireland industrially.

The deputation agreed to form a permanent Committee to make definite suggestions to the Ministry of Munitions.

AUSTRIAN FRIGHTFULNESS.

INFECTED SWEETS DROPPED BY
AIRCRAFT.

ROME, March 14th.

The Governor of Bologna announces that the Austrian air raiders, on the 13th February dropped packages of sweets, which, when analysed, were found to contain germs of contagious diseases.

MESOPOTAMIA MISMANAGE- MENT.

LONDON, March 14th.

The *Times* to-day publishes a leading article animadverting on the arrangements in Mesopotamia, especially medical defects.

COCOA FROM THE CAMEROONS.

LONDON, March 14th.

Four hundred tons of cocoa have arrived from the Cameroons.

FRENCH SAILORS AT LISBON.

LONDON, March 14th.

French sailors who have arrived here were accorded an ovation.

AMERICAN EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

EFFECT ON THE MUNITIONS
FACILITIES.

WASHINGTON, March 14th.

President Carranza has accepted American co-operation, provided his troops are allowed to cross the frontier in pursuit of the brigands. The United States has agreed to this.

The War Department recognises that months must elapse before General Villa's band is broken up.

The managers of the munitions factories with which large Government orders have been placed state that these will not interfere with their contracts with the Allies.

THE "CENTRAL EUROPE" SCHEMES.

According to the *Volkszeitung* the

fiscal negotiations between Germany, Austria and Hungary, which were initiated in July at Berlin and in November at Vienna, are being continued at Dresden. The chief Hungarian representative is the former Premier, Herr Wekerle. In an interview Herr Wekerle admitted that there are sharp differences of opinion between the "theorists" and the "practical politicians." He admitted that nothing definite could be done until Hungary had come to terms with Austria. Beyond that it was necessary to bring German interests into close touch with Austrian and Hungarian interests, and then it was absolutely necessary that before the conclusion of peace the Governments should come to definite agreements, so that they might present a united front in the economic questions which must "supplement the political alliance and fortify the military co-operation" of Germany and Austria-Hungary.—*Times*.

THE SERBIAN RETREAT.

HELP FROM THE WESTERN
ALLIES.

The retreat of the Serbian troops to the coast has only been rendered possible by the co-operation of the British, the French, and the Italians. Food has been supplied by the British and French jointly. The Italians have provided most of the shipping and escort necessary to transport it across the Adriatic. Its distribution has been arranged for by the members of the British Adriatic mission under General F. P. S. Taylor, C.M.G.

But the provision of food was only one of the duties undertaken by the British mission. In the north roads were repaired and made at least passable, and bridges and ferries constructed by the mission, the work being done by British engineers, Serbian pioneers, and Albanians under the direction of British officers. All the necessary material had to be obtained from Italy, and the transport for this, as well as for the food supplies, was provided by the Italian Admiralty.

The Serbian troops all went by land as far as Durazzo, and five days' rations were provided at Alessio, where troops and provisions were concentrated.

The very difficult situation created by the co-operation of three separate authorities and the complicated division of labour have been dealt with satisfactorily, and if there has been some delay the results attained and expected speak most highly for the good will of all concerned.

In the north the work was done by the British Adriatic mission. At Durazzo, and especially at Avlona and on the Vojussa River, British and Italians worked together. The work of providing supplies was in the hands of the British mission, but could never have been accomplished without the ready and generous co-operation of the Italians. The Italian Army made jetties, unloaded ships, transferred food to the coasting steamers, provided mule transport, and in short supplied all the means for getting the food from the base depots to the Serbians. In two cases where an ordinary transport was available the pick of the Italian regiments carried boots and food on their backs from Avlona to the Vojussa River, where the Serbian troops were waiting for help. The Italians have also done a great deal of valuable work making and improving roads in their sphere.

Mention should be made of the heroic work done by two Serbian doctors at Fieri, where hospitals have been established and where the worn and starving Serbians were, rested and refitted.

WAR NEWS.

REINFORCEMENTS TO BAGHDAD
IMPOSSIBLE.

A Russian military correspondent, writing to the *Morning Post*, anticipates complete Turkish evacuation of the Erzerum and Van districts, enabling the Russian guns to protect the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris and make the supply of reinforcements to Baghdad almost impossible.

THE EGYPT COMMAND.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Pioneer* says the command in Egypt has now been split up. General Sir Archibald Murray is in charge of the Mediterranean expeditionary force such as it is at present and is responsible for the Canal defence with headquarters at Ismailia; Lieut.-General (now temporary-General) Sir J. Maxwell is in military control of Egypt with headquarters in Cairo and is responsible for the western frontier. During General Murray's short stay in Cairo the Sultan gave a large banquet in his honour at Abbis palace.

HUNGARY HUNGARY

The *Morning Post's* Budapest correspondent says that M. Vassanyi, member for Budapest, vehemently attacked the Government in the Hungarian parliament for allowing the people to starve and permitting exports of produce to Germany, where he said prices were one-fourth those at Budapest; he stated that the German Government had purchased produce and sold below cost price.

The *New York Sun's* Rome correspondent quotes a business man who was recently in Austria-Hungary who says he is convinced that the monarchy cannot hold out beyond another three months.

DIVORCE FOR "POOR" SOLDIERS.

WAR'S EFFECT ON HAPPINESS ON THEIR
HOMES.

A Berlin paper recently reported that since the outbreak of war over thirty thousand German soldiers in the capital alone had had their marriages annulled. The domestic troubles of the British Tommy fell far short of the enemy record, as was shown in an interview with Mr. Adrian Hastings-Short, of the Poor Persons Department in the Law Courts.

"I do not think," said Mr. Hastings-Short, who dealt with all the applications for "easy" divorce, "that we have had more than three or four hundred soldier applicants during 1915, a fair number of whom were granted relief. Inevitably the war has had a regrettable effect on the happiness of many of our soldiers' homes, and from time to time I am obliged to deal with some applications from the trenches which are to be obtained under the Poor Persons Regulations. It is possible now, your know, for one who is not worth £50 to secure a divorce for as little as 11s. 3d., but this is the exception rather than the rule. The maximum cost of relief amounts to between £5 and £10. In the case of country applicants where witnesses have to be brought to London, naturally there is a little more expenditure. For soldiers in the firing line seeking divorce special permission is obtained from the War Office, and the applicant is allowed to come to London and put his case in the hands of counsel."

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STEAMERS	TO	DATE	REMARKS
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KORE, MALTA	TO	17th Mar.	1 freight and Passage.
LONDON and BOMBAY VIA NOVARA	TO	24th Mar.	See Special Advertisement.
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KORE, NAGOYA	TO	29th Mar.	1 freight and Passage.
LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, PORT SAID	TO	31st Mar.	Freight and Passage.

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Acting Superintendent.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1916.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

STEAMERS	TO	DATE
SWATOW and SINGAPORE	ON	16th Mar., 10 A.M.
SHANGHAI	ON	16th Mar., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	ON	16th Mar., Noon.
SHANGHAI	ON	19th Mar., 10 P.M.
SHANGHAI	ON	21st Mar., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	ON	22nd Mar., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	ON	24th Mar., Noon.

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SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW AND RETURN.

STEAMERS	TO	DATE
"HATHONG"	TO	TUESDAY, 21st Mar., at 2 P.M.
"HATTAN"	TO	FRIDAY, 24th Mar., at 2 P.M.

FOR SAIGON.

"HATHONG" ... TO THURSDAY, 16th Mar., at Noon

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Hongkong, 1st March, 1916.

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SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE.

STEAMERS	ARRIVE HONGKONG FROM AUSTRALIA	LEAVE HONGKONG FOR AUSTRALIA
ST. ALBANS	6th April	On 16th Mar., 11 A.M.
AMPERE		On 8th Apr., 11 A.M.
EASTERN		On 29th Apr., 11 A.M.

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STEAMERS	TONS	HONGKONG	LEAVE HONGKONG	TO	DATE
NOVARA	7,000	3 P.M.	Friday	Mar. 25	April 30
MALTA	6,000	4 P.M.	Monday	Mar. 27	May 15
SNAGOYA	7,000	4 P.M.	Monday	Mar. 27	May 29
NAMUR	7,000	5 P.M.	Tuesday	Mar. 28	June 12
NANKIN	7,000	5 P.M.	Tuesday	Mar. 28	June 26
NOVARA	7,000	6 P.M.	Wednesday	Mar. 29	July 10
MALTA	6,000	6 P.M.	Wednesday	Mar. 29	July 24
NYANZA	7,000	6 P.M.	Wednesday	Mar. 29	Aug. 7

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Return Tickets are available by British India or Messageries Maritimes Companies.

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STEAMERS	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE
NOVARA	about 1916	about 1916	about 1916	about 1916	about 1916
NOVARA	Mar. 13	Mar. 23	Mar. 30	Apr. 4	May 4
MONGARA	July 3	July 12	July 19	July 26	Aug. 23

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PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—

DESTINATION	STEAMERS	DATE	TIME
LONDON VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA, PENANG, COLOMBO, DURBAN, CAPE TOWN, and TENERIFE	MIYAZAKI MARU	SUNDAY, 13th	at Noon
	KITANO MARU	THURSDAY, 17th	at Noon
VICTORIA, B.O. and SEATTLE VIA SHANGHAI, MOJI, KORE, YOKKAICHI and YOKOHAMA	SHADO MARU	TUESDAY, 14th	at Noon
	AWA MARU	TUESDAY, 15th	at Noon
SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, VIA MANILA, RAMBONGA, THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE	NIKKO MARU	FRIDAY, 18th	at 4 P.M.
	AKI MARU	TUESDAY, 14th	at 11 A.M.
CALCUTTA VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG and RANGOON	CEYLON MARU	WEDDAY, 22nd	Mar.
BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO	YETOROFU MARU	TUESDAY, 28th	Mar.
SHANGHAI, MOJI and KORE	TOTOMI MARU	THURSDAY, 23rd	Mar.
SHANGHAI, KORE and YOKOHAMA	COLOMBO MARU	FRIDAY, 24th	Mar.
NAGASAKI, KORE and YOKOHAMA	AKI MARU	FRIDAY, 18th	at 10 A.M.
SHANGHAI, KORE and YOKOHAMA	HIRANO MARU	FRIDAY, 31st	Mar., at 10 A.M.

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To Sydney, 1st Single	240.	To Melbourne, 1st Single	240.
1st Return	270.	1st Return	270.
To Yokohama, 1st Return	180.	To Kobe, 1st Return	180.
2nd	80.	2nd	80.

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STEAMERS	DATE	TIME
KWANTO MARU	22,000—21 knots	WEDDAY, 29th Mar., Noon.
CHIYO MARU	22,000—21 knots	SAT., 8th April
PERIA MARU	9,000—17 knots	FRIDAY, 1st April
TENYO MARU	22,000—21 knots	WED., 3rd May
SEIYO MARU	14,000—14 knots	THURS., 11th May
NIPPON MARU	11,000—15 knots	TUESDAY, 16th May
SHINYO MARU	22,000—21 knots	WED., 31st May

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OUTWARD

SHANGHAI, KORE and YOKOHAMA ... On 19th April.

HOMEWARD

MARSEILLES VIA SAIGON and AMAZON ... On 26th March.

PORTS ... POLYNESIE ... On 1st April.

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"SAIGON MARU" ... T. Yamaguchi ... TUESDAY, 4th Apr., at 7 A.M.

FOR TAMSUI AND KEELUNG VIA SWATOW AND AMOY.

"KAIJO MARU" ... Murakami ... SUNDAY, 19th Mar., at Noon.

FOR ANPING AND TAKAO VIA SWATOW AND AMOY.

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